

As set forth on the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 of the present application (as amended in the Reply dated January 17, 2006), under "Cross Reference to Related Applications", the present application is a continuation of several applications, including the Chan document relied on by the Examiner:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/181,028, filed October 27, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,651,315, ***which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/900,787, filed July 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,852,397***, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/727,869, filed October 8, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/302,138, filed September 7, 1994, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of (1) copending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/152,070, filed November 12, 1993, by Graves, Zhang, Chandler, Chan and Fang, now abandoned, which is a file wrapper continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/910,950, filed July 9, 1992, now abandoned, and (2) copending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/121,717, filed September 15, 1993, by Fang, Siden, Thompson and Zhang, now abandoned, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. (emphasis added)

As a result, the Chan document is not prior art to the present document and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn. (Unfortunately, Applicants did not realize until reviewing this office action that the filing receipt for this application was incorrect and did not refer to Application No. 08/900,787 as a priority document. Because this application was filed before the general use of Application Data Sheets, the only reference to a prior document is found on the Utility Patent Application Transmittal mailed November 25, 2003 (which refers to this application as a continuation of Application No. 09/181,028, filed 10/27/98), and in the amendment to the Cross Reference to Related Applications, mentioned above. A request for a corrected filing receipt is being submitted.)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 23 under 35 USC § 102(a) and (e) as anticipated by Chiang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,023).

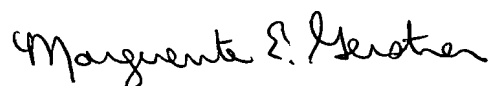
As indicated above, the present application draws priority from a continuation-in-part application (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/302,138, filed September 7, 1994), which itself draws priority from two applications (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/152,070, filed

November 12, 1993, (which is a file wrapper continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/910,950, filed July 9, 1992), and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/121,717, filed September 15, 1993). As a result of these early priority dates, the Chiang document, with a filing date of April 14, 1998, cannot be prior art against the present document. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action at an early date is earnestly requested. If, however, there are any outstanding issues which can be usefully discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marguerite E. Gerstner".

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